

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 IGA-02 TRSE-00 AEC-11 DRC-01 /117 W

----- 128938

R 241455Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 5952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: TUNISIAN FREIGHT FORWARDER FOR MILITARY

SPARE PARTS

1. (C) INFORMATION HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED HERE THAT  
A&G VALCKE, THE FREIGHT FORWARDER ENGAGED BY GOT FOR  
SHIPMENT OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS HAS NOT, RPT NOT BEEN

H

FULFILLING HIS OBLIGATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND COMPANY HAS  
AN OFFICE IN PARIS AND OPERATES THROUGH A U.S. AGENT,  
OMNITRANS CORP. OF NEW YORK. NEITHER OF THESE FIROS  
SEEMS TO HAVE OBTAINED AN EXPORT LICENSE. CONSEQUENTLY,  
URGENTLY REQUIRED SPARE PARTS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN DER  
"PRES. BOURGUIBA" (EX USNS T.J. GARY) IN OPERATIONAL  
CONDITION ARE FRUSTRATED AT NEW YORK, AND TUNISIAN NAVY  
IS THREATENING SHUT-DOWN SHIP PERHAPS THIS WEEK.

2. (C) INFORMAL QUERIES BY CNO OFFICE TO TUNISIAN EMB  
WASHDC REPORTEDLY HAVE PRODUCED RESPONSE THAT TUNISIAN  
EMB FEELS THE MATTER IS A MILITARY MATTER OUTSIDE THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES. WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE MATTER IS OF  
SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE THAT TUNISIAN EMBASSY SHOULD BE  
INVOLVED. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED TUNISIANS HERE TO  
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RESOLVE PROBLEM AND INTEND ANOTHER, AND THIS TIME HIGH

LEVEL APPROACH, THIS WEEK. AS ADDITIONAL STEP, WE REQUEST  
DEPARTMENT CONTACT GOT AMB HEDDA AND SOLICIT HIS GOOD  
OFFICES IN HAVING A&G VALCKE PERFORM FREIGHT FORWARDER  
FUNCTIONS OR IN OBTAINING A NEW , RELIABLE FREIGHT FORWARDER.  
ONCE SHIP IS SHUT-DOWN, COST AND EFFORT PUT HER BACK IN  
OPERATING CONDITION MAY BE PROHIBITIVE.

3. (C) FYI CNO/OP63 IS ENDEAVORING TO FORWARD MATERIALS  
DIRECTLY, BYPASSING FREIGHT FORWARDER, ON AN INTERIM BASIS.  
CNO TUNISIAN NAVY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO AUTHORIZE USN  
REPRESENTATIVE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF MATERIALS AREADY  
DELIVERED TO OMNITRANS IN ORDER FOR USN TO FORWARD THESE  
MATERIALS. END FYI.

4. (C) WHETHER OR NOT HEDDA WILLING BECOME INVOLVED,  
EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE DEPT'S ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING  
ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR SPARE PARTS FOR "BOURGUIBA"  
ONCE REQUEST IS MADE.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

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